

**MEDIA RELEASE: 14 JANUARY 2010**

### **FROM RUSSIA TO AUSTRALIA WITH LOVE**

Organisers of Australia Day celebrations at Shoal Bay Resort & Spa stumbled across their very own heart warming story of romance, determination and achievement, culminating finally into the national pride that illustrates the very essence yet diversity that is uniquely identifiable as being 'Australian'.

Oxana Grima, a long standing employee of Shoal Bay Resort & Spa who hails originally from Moscow, will attend the Australia Day Ceremony at Fly Point on 26 January 2010, where she will gain her much anticipated Australian Citizenship. Employed as a chef in The Promenade Room at Shoal Bay Resort & Spa for the past 5 years and living in Salamander Bay for the past 6 years, Oxana says that 'love' and 'the weather' drew her to Australia.

After meeting her husband 7 years ago through a mutual friend in Moscow, Oxana knew he was the one for her and left a high profile career, friends and family in Moscow to move to Port Stephens with her future husband. "I did not know much English when I arrived in Australia, however with my husband, family and employer's support I have been able to gain a strong understanding and appreciation of the language and culture in Australia. I am so proud and excited to be able to stand up in front of my husband, family, work mates and the Port Stephens community at the Fly Point ceremony and finally call myself Australian".

Oxana's commitment to becoming an Australian Citizen was evident in the lead up to taking the citizenship test, where she would attend a weekly tutoring session, which resulted in her obtaining a mark in the 'excellent' category. Oxana is firmly entrenched in the Australian way of life now and has organised for her family and friends to watch her confer as an Australian Citizen at the Fly Point ceremony, afterward celebrating over a relaxed Aussie style picnic on the Shoal Bay foreshore.

Across the road at the Shoal Bay Resort & Spa, Australia Day festivities will kick off at midday with live entertainers, The Zane Penn Duo playing classic Australian favourites into the afternoon at the Mermaids Bar & Grill. For the kids there will be free face painting, Australian themed colouring in sheets and balloons, whilst the whole family can enjoy delicious Hunter Beef steak or sausage sandwiches from the sizzling BBQ in the beer

garden. Mermaids Bar & Grill will have authentic Australian inspired meal specials along with popular locally made beer 'Whale Ale' on tap. An Australian themed carvery buffet serving an array of Australian favourites cooked to perfection will feature in the Promenade Room for dinner from 6pm in the evening, priced at \$32 pp with children half price and seniors discounts applicable. All activities/offers are open to the general public and we welcome the local community to celebrate what's great this Australia Day at Shoal Bay Resort & Spa.

**ENDS**

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

For more information, editorial enquiries and images about Shoal Bay Resort & Spa please contact:

Rebecca Smith  
Marketing Manager  
Shoal Bay Resort & Spa  
E [rebecca.smith@shoalbayresort.com](mailto:rebecca.smith@shoalbayresort.com)

T: 4984 8172 or visit [www.shoalbayresort.com](http://www.shoalbayresort.com)